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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 68% Light rain Sensex 83,712 | Nifty 25,522 | Gold 96,350 | Silver 1,07,604 | Dollar 85.74 | Euro 100.29 | GBP 116.19

GET IN SHAPE

Police Department resumes physical training sessions in select districts to combat obesity among its officers

PAGE 3

PAINT IT GREEN

As farmers oppose land acquisition plan for aerospace park in Devanahalli, govt wants to take green zone route

PAGE 4

Bengaluru Comprehensive Mobility Plan suggests city should have fleet of 13,000 buses, but we have only about half that number. As BMTC says there is no shortage, long waits, crowding at peak hour and patchy routes indicate otherwise

ALL LINES IN THIS ROUTE ARE BUSY

Addition of buses to cost: ₹3,300 crore; tunnel road proposal cost estimate: ₹7,100 crore

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As per the Bengaluru Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), the city should ideally have a fleet of 13,000 buses to cater to its growing population. However, the current operational fleet stands at just 6,340, leaving a staggering shortfall of 6,660 buses.

Meanwhile, BMTC officials maintain that there is no shortage of buses, stating that the ridership has hit a post-covid record with 46 lakh passengers commuting over the past two days.

This gap in the fleet has had direct consequences on commuter convenience, with overcrowding, long wait times, and inconsistent services becoming a daily ordeal for passengers.

For many, especially those from low and middle-income groups, who rely heavily on public transport, the shortage is more than just an inconvenience—it affects their livelihoods. Even after metro price fare has increased there are many who are opting for BMTC buses.

A concerned citizen has raised questions over the priorities set under Bengaluru's urban mobility strategy, citing the stark contrast between bus shortages and high-budget road projects. Referring to the CMP, the user highlighted that the city currently faces a shortage of 6,660 buses—an expansion that would cost approximately ₹3,330 crore.

Drawing attention to the state government's proposed ₹7,100 crore grant to fund the controversial 17-km tunnel road project, which primarily benefits

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

> **"In Bengaluru, only about 50% of the city has adequate bus stop coverage with frequent access within walking distance, according to recent mapping and survey data. This lack of accessibility especially affects the very young and the elderly**
>
> —Shreya Gadepalli, mobility expert

Child friendly station

3 police stations in city get rooms with comfortable seating and more to make space approachable for young ones

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In a move to make police stations more approachable and inclusive, the Vijayanagar Sub-Division of West Division, Bengaluru City Police has set up child-friendly rooms at the Vijayanagar, Magadi Road, and Govindaraja Nagar police stations. The initiative is part of the state Home Minister's vision for a more people-friendly policing system, officials said.

These rooms are designed to provide a safe and comfortable space for children, especially those who visit the station with parents or are involved in sensitive cases. The aim is also to spread awareness about crimes against children and educate both children and adults about child protection.

"Our goal is to make police stations more public-friendly," said the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Vijayanagar Sub-Division. "We are giving special attention to women, children, senior citizens, and the differently abled. These are small but meaningful steps to support vulnerable groups," he told BM.

Officials noted that stations are also offering educational content on topics like good touch and bad touch, and trying to create a safe, positive environment through basic etiquette, awareness, and visual learning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Art exploration

National Gallery of Modern Art is organising 'Putul Katha', an illustrative lecture taking the audience on a journey through doll stories. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: July 11, 5 pm**

02 Play time

Ranga Shankara is hosting the 15th edition of 'AHA! Theatre for Children Festival', featuring plays from across India, based on themes of self-discovery, courage, and imagination. Each play invites children to question, explore, and connect. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: July 15 to 19, 7.30 pm**

03 Wizarding wonders

Nexus Whitefield Mall is presenting 'Science of Wizards', an experiential fest that blends the enchantment of wizardry with the wonders of science through hands-on experiments, interactive zones, and magical demonstrations, making learning both fun and unforgettable. **Where: Nexus Whitefield Mall; When: July 12 and 13, 11 am to 8 pm**

04 Shopping spree

Swadeshi Art and Craft Exhibition is bringing an exclusive sale of handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, sarees, clothing, accessories, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and home accessories. **Where: Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar; When: July 6 to 16, 10.30 am to 9 pm**

05 Handcrafted heritage

The Purple Turtles is presenting 'A Festival of Mirrors', a curated showcase of sculptural, handcrafted mirrors that celebrate heritage, form, and function. **Where: The Purple Turtles, Indiranagar; When: June 25 to July 9, 10.30 am to 8 pm**

Turahalli forest trashing: Agencies will have to answer

Prompted by BM's article, NGT directs BBMP, KSPCB and others, to file responses before next hearing, says article raises substantial issues about compliance of norms

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FILE PHOTO

According to city-based environmentalists, measures such as strict vigilance by the Forest Department, along with awareness campaigns about the harmful impacts of littering forest areas, might help improve the situation

Following Bangalore Mirror's article about garbage littered in Turahalli forest, the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), amongst other agencies, after registering a suo motu case in the matter. Apart from the BBMP and KSPCB, notices have also been sent to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Bangalore Development Authority, and the District Magistrate, Bengaluru.

"The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, the Forest Conservation Act, and the Indian Forest Act," NGT noted in its order. The tribunal has directed the agencies to file their responses before the Southern Zonal Bench of the tribunal at least one week before August 28, the next scheduled date of hearing.

BangaloreMirror
Turahalli forest is choking under mounds of garbage

BM published a story June 6, highlighting the unchecked dumping of garbage at Turahalli forest

BM's article, published on June 6, highlighted how one of Bengaluru's last few lung spaces is choking due to unchecked garbage dumping.

NGT underlined that Turahalli forest is an ecological buffer that helps maintain Bengaluru's groundwater levels, controls soil erosion, and supports urban biodiversity. "The article states that non-biodegradable waste, especially plastics, disintegrate micro and nano particles that seep into the food chain, endangering wildlife and human health. As per the article, despite cleanup efforts, Turahalli forest faces ongoing illegal dumping," noted NGT. Locals say the forest has faced a threat from garbage dumping for the longest time. While Turahalli Mini Forest is free from this issue due to better security, Turahalli Reserve Forest and Turahalli State Forest face illegal dumping by residents in the area, as well as passersby.

A local opined that Turahalli Mini Forest has large gates manned by security personnel, discouraging people from venturing into that area. "However, the Reserve Forest in front of the SS Academy of Technical Education always flaunts a big garbage dump. It is not the college but residents and visitors who have been littering. I have witnessed people bringing every kind of debris in a van and dumping it here," said a local.

According to city-based environmentalists, measures such as strict vigilance by the Forest Department, along with awareness campaigns about the harmful impacts of littering forest areas, might help improve the situation. "The Forest Department should carry out regular vigilance of the forest area and also organise awareness activities for locals. Residents living in layouts abutting the forest boundary also dump a lot of garbage," said Joseph Hoover, former member of State Board of Wildlife and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Kickback allegations in BAMUL's insurance scheme

Serious irregularities have surfaced in the Bangalore Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) —comprising Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Ramanagara milk unions—with accusations of kickbacks and procedural violations in the cattle insurance scheme. Reports claim 15 per cent commissions were secured through intermediary agencies, resulting in inflated premium costs, thereby burdening both the federation and dairy farmers. An activist said that broker-led contracts were introduced in 2022. "Around Rs 40 crore worth of insurance is done annually without the knowledge of the elected board, bypassing required procedures," said the activist. Critics, including former BAMUL Director GR Bhaskar, have demanded a high-level probe, highlighting that advance work orders were issued even before tender processes began.

— BMB

'Namma Granthalaya' to empower students with rural libraries

To empower rural youth for today's competitive world, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is launching the 'Namma Granthalaya' (Our Library) initiative across Karnataka. A total of 6,599 libraries are being set up, with buildings identified in most gram panchayats. Of these, 66 libraries are already operational, while others are in various stages of preparation. Each library is being set up with Rs 4 lakh under a Central Government scheme to promote reading and digital access for children and adolescents. In cases where gram panchayats lack proper infrastructure, schools have been permitted to house the libraries, with headmasters being given charge of the keys. Each library will stock over 2,000 Kannada books and 600 English books, focusing on educational and bilingual materials. On June 16, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated 176 libraries in Davangere district alone, of which 66 have already begun functioning.

— BMB

QPL 2.0 logo unveiled in Bengaluru by actress Ramya

The Queens Premier League (QPL) unveiled the logo for its second season, 'Kreedotsava', in Bengaluru. The event marks the start of a new phase, with QPL expanding to include 12 additional sports. The logo was unveiled by QPL Founder Mahesh Gowda, actress Ramya (also the face of QPL), and actor Pramod Shetty, who is also a QPL committee member. The event was attended by media, partners, and supporters from across the city. Actress Elli Avr-Ram was also present in support of the QPL team.

Mahesh Gowda said that QPL 2.0 aims to change how women participate in sports and entertainment. "We are targeting 50 million digital views and wider reach across India. It is important to shift attention from screen-based activities to physical engagement," he said, adding that when public figures stay active, it encourages others to do the same. "Our goal is to promote physical activity over digital distractions," he said.

The event outlined QPL's focus on creating a space where sports and entertainment come together with a clear purpose. Following its first season, which reached over 25 million digital views and 5,000 in-person attendees, QPL 2.0 aims to grow as a national platform. "QPL brings the sports and entertainment industries together with corporate partners to drive participation and visibility," said Pramod Shetty. He said that the platform encourages activity and offers real opportunities for involvement. The event also featured female celebrities to engage with younger audiences and promote active lifestyles. QPL continues to involve women in production and technical roles, supporting broader participation and recognition.

— BMB

Heart alert triggers K'taka police fitness revival

With obesity and heart risks rising, Karnataka police revive a rigorous fitness program combining workouts, counseling, and strict diet plans for personnel

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FILE PHOTO FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Rising stress and poor lifestyle habits are leading to obesity among police personnel, impacting both physical fitness and job performance

Amid a rise in heart attack cases across the country, the Police Department has revived its long-pending body-fat reduction program for personnel.

Physical training sessions have been reintroduced in several districts to help staff tackle obesity, while efforts to identify overweight personnel are underway in other parts of the state.

The department has begun identifying overweight personnel through Body Mass Index (BMI) tests. Staff found unfit have been instructed to lose weight within three months.

This fitness initiative, originally introduced during the COVID-19 period and made mandatory by the government, was not implemented consistently due to various challenges. It has now been revived to ensure the physical well-being of the force.

"We have been instructed to identify overweight personnel and provide them with fitness training. This is being done using BMI tests to spot obesity among the staff," said a senior police officer from Belagavi.

Why are policemen becoming obese?

- Irregular working hours and poor dietary habits
- High stress levels and lack of a healthy lifestyle
- Staff shortages increasing workload
- No balance between work and personal life
- Mental health impact from investigating crime cases
- Lack of routine sleep and exercise
- Resorting to smoking and alcohol as stress relief

What's included in the training?

A structured training regimen is being rolled out in phases for ASIs and Head Constables. Daily camps include morning-to-evening sessions of physical workouts, yoga, running, walking, lathi drills, and weapon drills. These activities are aimed at reducing weight and improving fitness. Post-workout, expert doctors offer health counseling until 1 pm. Meals are carefully curated, including brown rice, red rice, jowar and ragi rotis, and buttermilk. A special 5 km run has also been introduced for endurance.

Mental health matters too

"Due to work stress, many police personnel have faced mental and physical health challenges, leading to obesity. Everyone, including police officers, must adapt to healthier lifestyles to serve effectively",said a psychiatrist

Department is taking obesity seriously

Post-duty, many officers have neglected their physical and mental well-being, leading to obesity and related health issues that are now impacting their job performance. The department has taken serious note of this and is responding with urgency.

Last year alone, nearly 7,500 overweight police personnel in Bengaluru underwent fitness training. Health experts warn that an unhealthy lifestyle, lack of physical activity, excessive medication, smoking, and other habits can contribute to weight gain—raising the risk of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, sleep disorders, and even cancer.

Young minds experience politics at legislative heart

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Around 200 students from 15 schools in Bengaluru on Tuesday attended the two-day Young Indians Parliament (YIP) at Vidhana Soudha, the seat of Karnataka Legislature.

The Young Indians Parliament is a platform that educates and empowers students in democratic leadership, civic engagement, and public policy. Over 200 delegates from top institutions across Bengaluru Urban and Rural participated in the two-day event. Students engaged in debates, policy discussions, Question Hour, and Zero Hour, and took part in drafting and voting on developmental bills and resolutions.

Students were in awe of the grandeur and beauty of Vidhana Soudha. "I am feeling very good to attend this session. It is my first visit to Vidhana Soudha. We are discussing innovative solutions to the problems of the country," said Tarun UM, a 9th grade student, Malgudi Vidya Niketan.

Donning the role of deputy prime minister, Preetham Gowda, a 11th grade student of Sishu Griha School, said that he represented the ruling party. "Our government is a combination of three political parties. I am elected as the deputy prime minister. Our party MPs are debating solutions to the problems in the country," he said.

Aarna A, a 10th grade student, said that she was very happy to attend the session. "It is a good opportunity for me to enter Vidhana Soudha and participate in a mock parliament session," she said.

Paws up! Free vet hospitals coming citywide

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If all goes as planned, Bengaluru will soon have eight fully-equipped government veterinary hospitals across all BBMP zones, offering free treatment for rescued animals and low-cost care for pet owners from economically weaker sections. The initiative, led by the Animal Husbandry Department of the BBMP, aims to ease the burden on animal rescuers who often spend large sums at private clinics.

In the past decade, nearly 60 veterinary clinics under the department were closed in two phases within city limits. The closures were justified by citing a lack of livestock population in urban areas. However, with a growing urban pet population and constant rescue needs, there has been increasing demand to reopen or establish new government veterinary clinics.

The new facilities will come up in Jayanagar (South), Prakash Nagar (West), Talaghattapura (RR Nagar), Garudacharpalya (Mahadevapura), Jeevanahalli (East), Doddabettahalli (Yelahanka), Dasarahalli, and Vijaya Bank Layout (Gottigere). The BBMP is renovating buildings that once housed the old clinics and equipping them with essential medical infrastructure.

"People in urban areas, especially the poor, do own animals and face difficulty accessing veterinary care. Also, animal rescuers have asked us repeatedly to set up affordable and accessible treatment centres," said Dr Chandraiah, Joint Director, BBMP Animal Husbandry Department. "These clinics will also assist in rescue operations carried out by BBMP."

"Animal welfare advocates welcome the move but urge 24/7 care, proper staffing, and collaboration with rescue shelters and private clinics

Each hospital will be capable of treating up to 50 animals per day and will have qualified veterinarians—only postgraduates will be hired. The government has allocated ₹6.05 crore for infrastructure, medicine, equipment, and staffing. Tenders for medical instruments, drugs, and furniture are being floated.

Animal welfare advocates in the city have welcomed the move. "It's a step in the right direction," said Harini Raghavan from Citizens for Animal Birth Control. "But BBMP should clearly define what cases these hospitals will handle. Many rescues need serious, specialised care—like surgeries or long-term rehabilitation—which most clinics are not equipped for."

Some rescuers stress the need for round-the-clock operations. "Many rescues happen at night—especially accidents involving community animals," said Nandita Subbarao, civic welfarist.

"At least two of these eight clinics must function 24x7. Right now, the two government clinics in Hebbal and Queens Road don't offer diagnostics on Sundays and close early on weekdays."

Subbarao added that seamless collaboration with private clinics and shelters already treating community animals is essential for long-term success. Experts agree that while the infrastructure is promising, its effectiveness will depend on timely implementation, qualified staff, adequate supplies, and coordination with the rescue ecosystem.

Green zone solution to untangle Devanahalli aerospace land row

Karnataka government considers freezing land use for 20 years amid mounting farmer protests over proposed defence project on 1,777 acres of fertile farmland

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Land acquisition in and around Bengaluru is once again under the spotlight, as the Karnataka government faces mounting resistance over its proposed Hi-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park in Channarayapatna hobli, Devanahalli taluk. At the heart of the controversy is the acquisition of 1,777 acres of fertile farmland across 13 villages, which has triggered strong opposition from farmers fearing loss of livelihood and displacement.

In an effort to quell the unrest, the state government is now seriously considering declaring the notified land as a "Green Zone"—a move that would freeze it from commercial exploitation or real estate conversion for 15 to 20 years. This status would ensure that the land remains reserved exclusively for agriculture, potentially earning goodwill among affected farmers while buying the state time to re-evaluate the project.

Farmers' fear and frustration

Farmer groups have warned of intensifying protests if the acquisition proceeds. They argue that the project threatens not only their land but their way of life, including ancestral homes and generational farming practices. Although the initial notification was issued in August 2021 during the BJP government's tenure, the final notification issued this year by the Congress-led administration has reignited tensions.

Many farmers claim they were not consulted adequately, and that the compensation offered—even under the Land Acquisition Act, 2013—fails to reflect the true economic and emotional value of their loss. "Why should only our villages bear the brunt of industrialisation?" asked a local farmer leader. "This is fertile land and our only source of livelihood."

Govt's middle path: green zone strategy

To address these concerns without scrapping the project altogether—an action with potential legal and economic implications—the government is weighing a compromise. At a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on July 3, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda proposed designating the area as a Green Zone. Legal experts endorsed the idea, citing previous commitments made by Siddaramaiah in 2004, when he supported farmers' concerns in the same region as Leader of the Opposition.

Officials say the move would prevent speculative land buying, protect agricultural livelihoods, and reduce the risk of litigation.

Strategic need vs emotional appeal

While trying to placate farmers, the government is also under pressure to maintain Karnataka's leadership in aerospace and defence. Large Industries Minister M B Patil defended the project, saying, "We are not acquiring 10,000 acres like Andhra Pradesh did. Karnataka is limiting this to just 1,282 acres, and farmers will be compensated as per the law."

He pointed out that Andhra Pradesh, under the Chandrababu Naidu-led government, had acquired over 55,000 acres and offered it to companies like Infosys, Cognizant, and TCS at throwaway rates—sometimes for as little as 99 paise per acre. Tamil Nadu, too, is rapidly expanding its industrial base in Hosur, just 50 km from Bengaluru, with plans for a new international airport to attract investments. "If we lose out to neighbouring states, the impact on Karnataka's aerospace dominance could be irreparable," warned Patil.

> **"We are not acquiring 10,000 acres like Andhra Pradesh did. Karnataka is limiting this to just 1,282 acres, and farmers will be compensated as per the law** – M B Patil, Large Industries Minister

Karnataka's aerospace edge

Patil said Karnataka currently contributes 65% to India's aerospace and defence sector and ranks third globally in this space. The state is home to HAL, Boeing, Safran, Airbus, Collins, and Lockheed Martin. The proposed Aerospace Park aims to reinforce this ecosystem, leveraging proximity to Kempegowda International Airport and existing infrastructure.

Awaiting CM's final word

As the government juggles legal, political, and developmental considerations, all eyes are on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. His final decision will determine whether the Green Zone plan can balance progress with dignity for the state's farmers—or deepen the divide between growth and grassroots.

State reviews B Khata to A Khata proposal

A high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently discussed converting 'B Khata' properties within BBMP limits into 'A Khata'. The proposal also included bringing revenue sites and buildings across Karnataka under the tax net by issuing B Khatas. Officials reviewed ongoing issues faced by residential and commercial properties lacking Commencement Certificates (CC) and Occupancy Certificates (OC), which are being denied electricity connections. The government is considering policy changes to resolve these matters, with a final decision expected to be taken during the upcoming Cabinet meeting.

Held at the CM's Krishna home office, the meeting saw the participation of Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda, Rahim Khan, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, and senior officials. The key proposal discussed involved applying specific rules to convert B Khata properties in BBMP areas to A Khata status. One suggestion was to declare the roads in revenue layouts as public roads, considering that residents already have access to government-provided water and electricity services. Officials, including Shivakumar, pointed out that allowing individual plot owners to apply for A Khata under this framework could boost government revenue. They also recommended allowing A Khata holders to apply for building plan approvals. Discussions included setting terms to gradually replace B Khatas with condition-based A Khatas citywide, citing favorable court orders and legal feasibility. The issue of electricity denial to buildings without CC or OC was also intensely debated, with a decision expected in the next Cabinet meeting.

— BMB

Civic workers push for recognition

Municipal employees from across Karnataka, including BBMP staff, staged a symbolic strike at Bengaluru's Freedom Park on Tuesday, demanding better service conditions and recognition as full-fledged government employees. Ten municipal corporations shut down as thousands took mass leave, protesting the withdrawal of the Logsafe attendance system, delay in filling 6,000 vacant posts, unfair promotion practices, and reduction in marshals. Protesters also called for protection from arbitrary suspensions and inclusion in key welfare schemes like KGID, GPF, and the Jyothi Sanjeevini health insurance programme. Speaking at the protest, participants expressed frustration over being treated as semi-government staff despite managing essential civic services. One employee questioned the inconsistency, noting that while the upgradation of a Gram Panchayat changes its administrative status, municipal employees remain excluded from full government benefits. Another protester stressed that the demand isn't just for better facilities, but for dignity, equal treatment, and official recognition as integral members of the Karnataka government workforce, deserving the same respect and rights as other government employees. **— BMB**

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Green theft

BTM Layout

Residents of EWS Colony, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, are demanding swift action after a BBMP park on 26th Main Road was falsely marked as private property by an unidentified individual.

Garbage overflow

Vijaynagar

Unregulated food carts along a bustling Vijayanagar street are creating serious hygiene concerns, with overflowing garbage and rodent infestations. Locals have raised alarm over the misuse of public space and escalating health hazards.

Light failure

Austin Town

For over two weeks, streetlights near Bettappa Garden in Austin Town have remained defunct. Despite repeated complaints, authorities have failed to act, leaving residents in the dark and increasingly worried about safety.

CRIME FILES

Boys steal to fund drug habit

The KR Puram police have solved a robbery case and arrested four students, including three Class 9 boys and one 1st-year PU student, for snatching a bag containing gold valuables worth ₹50 lakh, within 10 hours.

All four are from middle-class families and were addicted to smoking ganja. They spent most of their time outside the house and committed robberies to raise money for their addiction. The gang would target people walking alone, snatch mobile phones, and sell them for low prices to buy drugs.

On July 3, they robbed a homemaker from Andhra Pradesh who had come to give her daughter half a kilo of gold she had bought. The incident took place on Garden City College Road when the woman was walking after getting off a bus. The boys attacked her, snatched her bag, and fled on a bike. Though she raised an alarm, they managed to escape.

Based on her complaint, KR Puram police checked CCTV footage and identified the gang. They had no idea the bag contained so much gold, and after taking the mobile phone, they buried the bag and gold in a graveyard where they usually hung out. They sold the mobile phone to buy drugs.

Police recovered the gold, the phone, and the bike used in the crime. The boys also admitted to snatching mobile phones from people around Whitefield. As they are minors aged 15–16, the boys were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and handed over to their parents after counselling.

Engineer turns thief for gambling

A 27-year-old former software engineer, KA Murthy, has been arrested by Magadi Road police for his involvement in multiple house thefts and a chain snatching to fund his online betting addiction.

Murthy, a resident of Hongasandra in Begur, holds an engineering degree from Shivamogga. Police said he was addicted to gambling, which caused serious financial problems for his family. His father had to sell their ancestral house to repay debts. Later, the family shifted to Bengaluru, and Murthy took up a job at an IT company.

Despite working, Murthy continued gambling. When his salary wasn't enough, he began stealing from houses. He would walk around residential areas, find locked homes, look for spare keys under doormats or flower pots, steal valuables, and quietly leave.

Police said he already had four theft cases against him, and had been arrested earlier.

Recently, he snatched a gold chain from a woman waiting outside the Angala Parameshwari temple on Binni Mill Road. CCTV footage helped police identify and arrest him.

Former biker held for 180 theft cases

The Girinagar police have arrested a 37-year-old man, Achuth Kumar Gani, a former bike racer who turned into a serial chain snatcher, involved in over 180 theft cases in the past 10 years.

Gani, a native of Koliwada in Hubballi, was caught red-handed in D'Souza Nagar near Hosakerehalli while moving around suspiciously looking for a target.

Police said Gani is a PU dropout who got into crime to fund his addiction to gambling, alcohol, and a lavish lifestyle. He is an expert bike rider and claimed he once took part in national-level bike racing, said Inspector Satish Kumar.

Gani usually targeted elderly women walking alone and snatched their gold chains. On June 16, he attacked a homemaker who was plucking flowers in her compound. Pretending to ask for directions, he suddenly snatched her 50-gram gold chain and sped away on his bike. The woman fell and suffered a head injury.

Based on her complaint, police checked CCTV footage from the area and circulated a message to staff with details about the suspect's appearance. He was later spotted and arrested.

With his arrest, police have solved 10 recent chain snatching cases reported in different parts of Bengaluru over the last six months, and also a house theft in Koul Bazaar, Ballari district. Police recovered 541 grams of gold and a bike, together worth around ₹52.8 lakh.

Agent turns thief

The Hebbagodi police have arrested a 26-year-old real estate agent who broke into his neighbour's flat and made away with gold, diamond, platinum, and silver jewellery worth ₹60.4 lakh.

The accused, Nitesh Subo, a native of West Bengal, was staying with his sister at an apartment in Thirupalya, Anekal. He worked at a local real estate firm. Police said Subo was in urgent need of money for his father's medical treatment and decided to burgle his neighbour's house, knowing they were away in Dehradun for work. He broke open the door and looted the valuables.

The theft came to light when another resident in the building noticed the broken door and alerted the homeowner, who immediately filed a police complaint. Based on the CCTV footage and investigation, police identified and arrested Subo. During questioning, he confessed to the crime.

Golden getaway

The Jayanagar police on Monday arrested a 40-year-old goldsmith, Manish Kumar Soni, for cheating a city-based jeweller of 8.3 kg of gold bullion that was given to him in April to design ornaments.

Soni, a native of Rajasthan, had been working with the jeweller for over four years. Police said he had incurred debts and decided to escape with the gold, repay his loans, and enjoy a lavish life.

Based on a complaint filed by the jeweller, police tracked Soni to Goa, where he was holidaying with his wife. He was caught just in time, as he was planning to flee. A search led to the recovery of 3.1 kg of gold from his house in Hanumantha Nagar and 8.5 lakh in cash from his friend's house, together worth around 2.5 crore. Soni told the police that he had already sold the remaining gold to different buyers, and efforts were on to recover the rest.

Cyber crime unit faces internal strife

The newly formed Cyber Commander Centre (CCU), India's first full-fledged investigative unit dedicated to tackling cybercrime, is facing roadblocks right from its inception. Despite the state police department's initial proposal, the Centre was set up, contradicting the department's recommendations, creating operational confusion and a lack of clear direction. Former DGP Alok Mohan had written to the government seeking amendments to the formation order, but even after two months, there has been no official response. Meanwhile, although the government appointed DGP Pranav Mohanty to head the unit, it has delayed providing the necessary infrastructure, further pushing the CCU into a limbo-like state, with senior officials expressing frustration over the unclear future.

Several reasons have contributed to this conflict: The CCU head reports to the Additional Chief Secretary of the administrative department instead of the DGP, breaking the chain of command and risking coordination issues within the police. No new posts or office infrastructure have been created; instead, existing police department resources are being reused, leading to confusion over responsibility. Strong objections have also been raised over the transfer of CID's narcotics and cyber wings to the CCU, as CID operates as an independent investigative agency. Additionally, Bengaluru Police Commissioner's legal autonomy could clash with CCU's inclusion of 43 CEN stations across the state. The delay in appointing zonal SPs and the overlap of district-level responsibilities are feared to cause jurisdictional friction. Lastly, the appointment of the CCU chief as the state's Information Security Officer, despite a separate e-governance department for digital administration, could lead to internal administrative disputes. —BMB

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Don't film, help accident victims

As South Wales launches its campaign 'It's Not Your Story to Tell' to curb the disturbing trend of filming accident victims for social media clout, Bengalureans are voicing similar concerns, demanding a crackdown on bystanders who record accident scenes instead of helping victims. With growing incidents of road mishaps in the city, citizens and civic groups are calling for a formal policy and awareness campaign that promotes compassion over clicks.

The call for change comes in the wake of several recent accidents in Karnataka, where victims were not only left unattended but were also filmed by onlookers, often with the footage circulating on social media within minutes. This increasing insensitivity has triggered outrage among the public and first responders alike.

Dr K Krishnamurty, a general physician, expressed anguish over the trend. "In many cases, we've seen videos of injured people lying on the road with no immediate medical attention because people were busy recording. It delays emergency response and shows how dangerously desensitised we've become," he said.

The problem is not new, but it has worsened in the age of instant social media gratification. There have been many accidents where victims are seriously injured. Instead of alerting an ambulance, passersby were seen filming. Activists are now urging the government and police to act. "We need a city-wide campaign on the lines of what South Wales has initiated. Recording someone's trauma for entertainment is not just unethical, it's inhumane," said Manasa R, a college student. "It's time Bengaluru says, 'This is not your story to tell.'"

The police, too, are taking note of this worrying pattern. A senior traffic police officer, requesting anonymity, said, "We are seeing a rise in cases where accident footage reaches social media before the police even arrive. This not only hampers investigations but also violates the victim's privacy."

Many Bengalureans are echoing the words of Eve Thomas from Wales, whose father's accident was filmed and shared online, causing immense trauma to the family. "If it were your loved one in that situation, would you record or rescue?" asked Nithya B, a college student in Jayanagar.

What Bengaluru needs now is a multi-stakeholder approach involving the police, BBMP, hospitals, and civil society to create a standard protocol at accident sites. Strict penalties must be introduced for those who obstruct emergency response or exploit distress for digital attention. At the same time, mass awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and public spaces can reintroduce empathy and responsibility. The city must transform from passive spectatorship to active citizenship. —BMB

BBMP slammed for failure to keep its own backyard clean

Activists demand urgent action as footpaths near BBMP HQ reek of neglect, open urination, and civic indifference

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BBMP engineers urged to step out and witness the condition of their own premises

“BBMP Head office vicinity demands a makeover; neglected corners reflect poorly on our city’s caretakers
– Vinod Jacob, Civic activist

The Many volunteers and social activists were happy when Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner announced the plan or objective to clear black spots in the city on a permanent basis.

For years, resident welfare associations and volunteers have been striving to beautify these neglected corners of the city. Despite their dedication and hard work, the results have remained uneven and underwhelming, often falling short of expectations. While the BBMP has the authority to penalise property owners for failing to maintain cleanliness in their premises, enforcement of these rules has been inconsistent across wards.

Ironically, one of the most persistent black spots lies just outside the BBMP’s own headquarters. On Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, a section of the footpath adjacent to a private building has become an open urinal. A few irresponsible auto-rickshaw and cab drivers have been using the spot to relieve themselves, creating a foul stench and posing a health hazard for pedestrians.

Adding to the public outrage is the proximity of this neglected stretch to the BBMP Head Office. Despite being a few metres away from the civic body’s central office, no visible steps have been taken to either beautify the area or prevent open urination.

“I come across this nuisance every time I visit the BBMP Head Office,” said environmentalist Dattatreya T Devare. “I usually take a BMTC bus, get off at the Pallavi bus stop, and walk to the office. Most BBMP engineers and officers don’t travel by bus, so they are probably unaware of this situation. I urge the Chief Commissioner to step out of his office and walk down Devanga Hostel Road to witness the condition firsthand.”

Frustration among citizens is growing. Ashok K, a pedestrian who regularly passes through the area, said, “The BBMP has no moral right to advise citizens on cleanliness if it can’t keep its own premises clean.”

Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation emphasised that civic hygiene should begin around institutions of governance. “The BBMP head office vicinity urgently needs a complete makeover. Black spots, yellow stains, and neglected stretches paint a very poor image of our city’s caretakers,” he said.

Jacob added that accountability must begin at the ward level. “It’s time for ward engineers and health inspectors to lead by example. Each of them must take responsibility for keeping their wards clean starting with the streets around key government buildings. As the city rapidly expands and new municipal corporations are being planned, Bengaluru must prioritise long-term systems that ensure sustainable cleanliness and dignity for its public spaces.”

Yettinahole awaits forest clearance nod

The Karnataka government has urged the Centre to grant Stage-I Forest clearance for a key component of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project, aimed at addressing drinking water shortages in several drought-prone districts. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, in a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), said a revised proposal was submitted on June 4. It seeks diversion of 111.02 hectares of forest land in Tumakuru and Hassan districts for laying a gravity main canal in favour of Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL). Shivakumar said the canal is vital for supplying water to Tumakuru and Hassan, among seven districts covered by the project. Yettinahole proposes to divert 24.01 TMC of surplus monsoon water from Sakleshpur’s Western Ghats streams to fill 527 tanks, helping recharge groundwater and benefit 75.59 lakh people across 6,657 villages and 38 towns.

— BMB

Health department digitises post-mortems

The Karnataka Health Department has issued a directive mandating that all hospitals under its jurisdiction must prepare and upload Medico-Legal Case (MLC) and post-mortem reports exclusively through the ‘Medleapr.nic.in’ portal. A circular from the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission division has made it clear that handwritten reports are no longer allowed. All post-mortem documentation must be typed and uploaded digitally. In case of network or portal issues, hospitals are instructed to generate typed reports and upload them within 24 hours.

Government hospital doctors must log into the portal to fill out reports, which will then be reviewed by nodal officers within two days. Once approved, the reports can be finalised. The entire process—from the identity of the doctor conducting the post-mortem to the personal details of the deceased will now be digitally traceable. Victim statements in MLCs will also be accessible online.

— BMB

Travel owners rage against toll burden, demand justice in vehicle policy

The Karnataka State Travel Owners’ Association has called for urgent reforms in transport-related taxation and toll policies, demanding seasonal or discounted passes for public transport and taxi operators, rationalisation of toll structures for high-usage vehicles, equal concession rights similar to private users, and transparent public consultations by the government. These demands were issued in response to the draft Motor Vehicles Guidelines 2025 circulated by the Centre to State Chief Secretaries.

Association president K Radhakrishna Holla said the current system unfairly burdens commercial vehicle operators, who shoulder the responsibility of transporting people and goods across the country. While private vehicle owners enjoy benefits such as the ₹3,000 annual FASTag pass, no such relief is extended to trucks, buses, and taxis that travel long distances daily. “We demand fairness. Vehicles that work for society deserve the same, if not more, benefits than private users,” Holla said.

Commercial vehicles bear the brunt of rising tolls despite running hundreds of kilometres daily

The toll fee structure emerged as a key point of concern. The Association noted that the transport sector is weighed down by a cascade of taxes income tax, GST, road tax, fuel tax, urban cesses and yet must still pay multiple tolls each day. This cumulative burden, they argue, is pushing operators to the brink.

“We demand fairness; vehicles working for society deserve equal benefits as private users, if not more
– K Radhakrishna Holla
Karnataka State Travel Owners Association President

“Every kilometre we drive comes at a price not just fuel but endless tolls. The system is broken and needs to be fixed,” Holla remarked.

According to the Association, toll booths, which were once infrequent, now appear every 60 kilometres, extending across national highways, state highways, tunnels, and even flyovers. Data from the National Highway Authority shows there are over 1,100 toll plazas across India, collecting thousands of crores annually for the upkeep of 45,000 kilometres of roads. Yet most of this revenue comes from commercial vehicles that operate 300 to 400 kilometres a day.

Despite this, commercial vehicles are excluded from toll concessions. The Association criticised this disparity, arguing that while the government frequently turns to the transport sector for revenue, it rarely offers any support in return. Holla described the transport industry as the “milk cow” of public finance exploited for resources but neglected in policy-making. The Association also raised constitutional concerns, pointing to Article 19(1)(d), which guarantees citizens the right to move freely across the country. “But today, that freedom comes with a price tag tolls, taxes, cesses making us question whether movement is a right or a paid privilege,” Holla said.

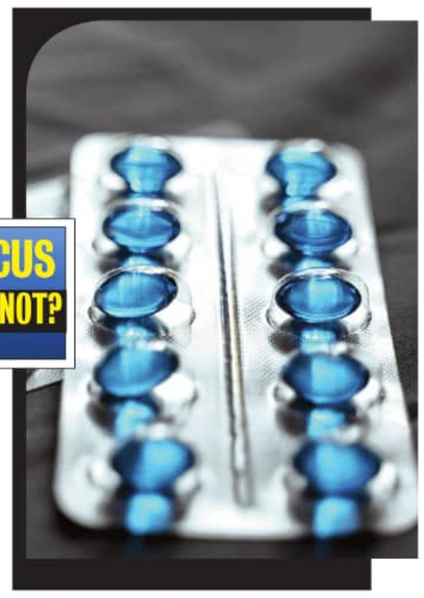
Mounting operational costs are forcing transporters into losses, leading to fare hikes that directly affect the common man. The Association warned that unless policies are rationalised, public-serving vehicles will continue to suffer, while the system remains skewed in favour of private convenience.

“Today, our policies feed the child playing with toys, not the one crying from hunger,” Holla said, adding that the sector driving the economy is being ignored while private luxury gets all the attention.

The Association has urged the government to hold transparent consultations and incorporate feedback from all stakeholders before finalising the Motor Vehicle Guidelines 2025. It also appealed to the public to join the conversation not just to complain, but to demand a fair, inclusive, and sustainable transport policy for the country.

Chemists flag misleading online medicine ads

Druggists' Association warns unregulated campaigns fuel self-medication, endanger public health



INFOCUS
MEDS OR NOT?

Citing the surge in "psychologically manipulative, anti-competitive, and legally non-compliant" pharmaceutical advertisements on social media by unregulated online drug sellers and retail pharmacy chains, the Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists Association (BDCDA) has filed a complaint with the Competition Commission of India (CCI), urging urgent regulatory action against misleading and aggressive pharmaceutical advertisements by online medicine sellers and MedPlus Retail Chain across social media platforms.

In a letter to Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson of the CCI, BDCDA President B Thirunavukkarasu underscored what he described as a violation of public health ethics. "Promotional campaigns by the MedPlus retail chain, carried out largely through Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and mobile apps, are systematically dismantling the regulatory safeguards surrounding prescription drug distribution in India," he stated.

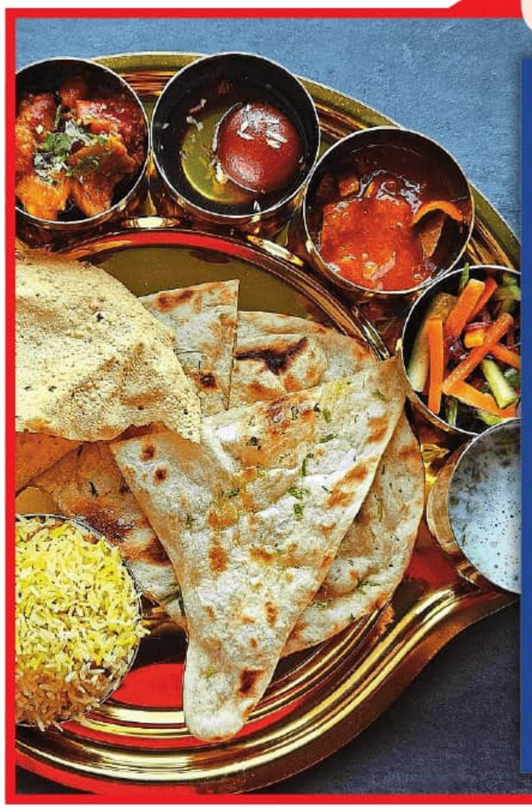
The BDCDA has raised concerns that these unregulated digital platforms are resorting to aggressive marketing strategies that flout pharmaceutical advertising norms, mislead the public, and disrupt fair market practices. The association cautions that such unchecked activities not only jeopardise public health but also erode consumer trust in the pharmaceutical sector and compromise the integrity of the country's regulated healthcare framework.

BDCDA has accused unregulated online medicine platforms and MedPlus of running "psychologically manipulative, anti-competitive, and ethically troubling" ad campaigns across Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and mobile apps. BDCDA warns that these unchecked digital campaigns promote self-medication, increase the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), normalise irrational consumption of antibiotics, and sideline licenced pharmacists. "These platforms are portraying ethical pharmacists as mere profit-seekers and encouraging a 'cheapest-medicine' culture that threatens safety," the letter reads.

The association highlights violations involving the advertising of Schedule H and H1 medicines, prescription drugs that legally require medical supervision without adherence to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. They cite emotional triggers, fear-based tactics, and aggressive discounting that bypass necessary pharmacist-patient consultation and prescription scrutiny.

"India's pharmacists are not shopkeepers; they are trained health custodians. Their role is being systematically eroded by social media algorithms and app-based price wars," said BDCDA President B Thirunavukkarasu in the letter.

On our plates



8%year-on-year (YoY): Decline in average cost of a vegetarian thali as compared to last year.

6%: Dip in cost of a non-vegetarian thali.

Roti rice rate: Monthly Crisil Intelligence report that tracks food prices.

Why the dip?

The decline in vegetarian thali prices was primarily attributed to a significant drop in key vegetable prices, which had spiked the previous year due to adverse weather and crop diseases.

24% YoY: Drop in tomato prices from Rs **32** per kg from Rs **42** a year ago.

Potato and onion prices also saw steep declines of **20** per cent and **27** per cent, respectively.

For non-vegetarian thalis, the cost decline was aided by a **3** per cent YoY drop in broiler chicken prices, which account for nearly half the cost of a non-veg thali.

However, despite the government's move to reduce basic customs duty on crude edible oils, vegetable oil prices surged 19 per cent YoY in June.

Reaching consumers

Crisil Intelligence report says the benefit of reduced import prices is yet to be fully passed on to the consumers. Additionally, a **6** per cent YoY hike in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder prices tempered the overall drop in thali costs. —ANI

HIGH COURT

Court halts kendra closure order

The Karnataka High Court has suspended the operation of a State Health Department order directing the closure of Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) within government hospital premises, specifically for 18 petitioners.

Justice MI Arun, whilst hearing petitions from Kendra owners, stated, "The concession granted to the petitioner to run a Jan Aushadhi Kendra (pharmacy shop) in the respondent no 4 hospital shall not be terminated till the next date of hearing."

The owners argued that the Government Order was issued hastily without prior consultation or notice, undermining public welfare.

The petitioners highlighted their substantial investments in infrastructure, medicine stocks, equipment, staff payments and regulatory compliance for operating the Kendras.

They argued that the order violated their constitutional rights under Article 19(1)(g) and Article 21, affecting their legitimate business expectations.

The Government Order's rationale was based on a policy preventing doctors from directing patients to external medicine facilities, considering Jan Aushadhi Kendras within hospital premises contradictory to this directive. BMB

Centre officers misusing IT Act?

X Corp informed the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday that numerous Central government officers across India are exercising their authority under Section 79 of the IT Act to block content, based on their interpretations of law and morality.

Senior Advocate KG Raghavan, representing X Corp, presented before Justice N Nagprasanna that the current system allows thousands of Union officers nationwide to make independent decisions about content regulation.

He highlighted the contrast with Section 69A's committee-based process, noting that Section 79 permits individual officers to issue takedown orders without institutional oversight, violating Article 14.

Raghavan argued that Section 79(3)(b) should not function as an independent authority for content blocking. BMB

RCB not heard, says petition

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has approached the Karnataka High Court challenging specific remarks made by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) regarding the June 4 Chinnaswamy Stadium Stampede.

The CAT had indicated RCB's prima facie responsibility for the crowd gathering that resulted in the stampede, causing eleven fatalities.

RCB has contested these observations. "Despite the fact that (RCB) was not a party before it, the CAT, has also held that (RCB) is prima facie responsible for the unfortunate incident.

The findings in the (CAT) Order against the (RCB) are contrary to the principles of natural justice, as the (RCB) was not a party to the proceedings. The Central Administrative Tribunal has made observations against (RCB) without even giving an opportunity to be heard in the proceedings," stated RCB in its petition.

INBRIEF

Minister seeks locals' opinion

With an increase in tiger population in Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS), Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed Forest Department officials to take the opinion of locals regarding declaring MM Hills as a tiger reserve.

In a meeting held with KFD officials on Tuesday, Khandre instructed them to convene a meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the issue and submit a proposal regarding the same.

The Minister also directed forest officials to take all necessary precautions to control unnatural deaths of wildlife in the state.

Centralised command centre

In order to prevent wildlife poaching, forest encroachment, and illegal tree felling, Khandre has also issued instructions to set up a centralised command centre to monitor wildlife and poachers' movements based on the footage from drone cameras, and CCTV cameras installed in the forest. That apart, a list of vacant positions in the forest department will be prepared to initiate the recruitment process, along with appointments on a contract basis for critical positions. BMB

ED returns funds to Waqf

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has released ₹3.82 crore to the Karnataka State Waqf Board in connection with a money laundering case involving officials of Vijaya Bank and the Waqf Board.

The ED initiated its probe based on an FIR against two Vijaya Bank officials and Syed Siraj Ahmed, a First Division Assistant with the Waqf Board. The case involved the fraudulent diversion of ₹4 crore, meant for fixed deposits, to fictitious accounts. Of this, ₹4 crore was transferred to Varkeys Realties Pvt Ltd, which used ₹1.10 crore to purchase a luxury car and routed the remaining ₹2.72 crore to M/s. Ajay Sharma Trading Corporation.

Following an in-depth investigation and tracing of the money trail, the ED provisionally attached assets worth ₹3.82 crore and filed a Prosecution Complaint before the Special PMLA Court in 2017. On July 1, the ED, upholding the principles of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, facilitated the return of the attached amount to the Karnataka State Waqf Board. BMB

ED questions former MP

Former MP DK Suresh on Tuesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in a money laundering case against a woman who is alleged to have cheated a number of people, official sources said.

This is the second time Suresh, brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, appeared before the ED officials in a span of a fortnight.

Later, Suresh told reporters that during his previous questioning, the ED officials had inquired about his income and properties.

"Today, I provided all the information to them. I have also provided information about the cases pending in the court of law. After I handed over all the documents, the ED officials said they would go through it."

He also said he has not been asked to appear before the agency again.

"But I don't know what they will tell me again in future. I will cooperate with the investigation," the former MP said. The ED arrested the woman, Aishwarya Gowda (33), in April following searches against her, Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni, and a few others. BMB

'Bus ridership has touched post-covid record'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

private car users, the user asked, "Why prioritise cars, Bengaluru?"

Tunnel vision

The tunnel road, touted as a 'scientific solution' to decongest traffic, is seen by many urban planners and citizens as a car-centric project that could undermine sustainable transport goals. In contrast, investing in public transport, especially BMTC's bus fleet, could potentially benefit a much larger share of the population, reduce traffic volume, and lower emissions, experts say.

Shreya Gadepalli, Founder of Urban Workers and mobility expert told BM, "In Bengaluru, only about 50% of the city has adequate bus stop coverage with frequent access within walking distance, according to recent mapping and survey data. This lack of accessibility especially affects the very young and the elderly, who often struggle to reach distant or infrequent bus services."

She further suggested that one solution proposed is to ensure entire fleet-based buses operate on exclusive routes to improve reliability and reach. A visionary idea known as the 'Triple 5' solution has also been suggested: A bus stop within 5 minutes of every home, buses arriving every 5 minutes, and no journey delayed by more than 5 minutes. "If implemented, why would anyone hesitate to choose public transport? It would solve most of the issues people face and make public commuting the most convenient option," said Gadepalli.

BMTC officials have acknowledged that it is true that there is a shortfall as outlined in the mobility plan. However, they maintain that the current fleet, including electric buses, is sufficient to handle the city's existing demand. "We are currently able to accommodate 46 lakh passengers, and the system has a capacity of up to 50 lakh, so there is no shortage at the moment," an official said. They also noted that while nearly 800 electric buses were added, with the Union government approving 4,500 buses for the city under a newly launched scheme, the Corporation is expected to have nearly 10,000 vehicles in its fleet in the next two years.

But somehow, the distribution of buses has not been satisfactory as some areas do not have any bus connectivity as this person posted on X: "There are some serious planning lapses. I stay in Kathriguppe. This entire area has no buses to Jayanagar, everyone goes by auto/self. Airport buses start from Kamakhya depot but there are no stops here, they ply empty till Satellite bus station. What's stopping them from studying routes?"

Shakti Scheme nears 500 crore free rides

The Karnataka government's flagship Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for women, is on track to reach a major milestone of 500 crore rides by July 14 or 15, according to sources.

Launched in June 2023, the scheme is one of the five key guarantees under which the Congress came to power in the state; the scheme has significantly boosted public transport usage among women. Since its rollout, it has seen unprecedented ridership across Karnataka, especially in non-luxury government buses operated by KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC.

As of July 8, the notional ticket value of the free journeys has touched a staggering ₹12,511 crore, highlighting both the popularity and the fiscal weight of the initiative. Women across the state have widely benefited from the scheme, which allows them to travel for free within Karnataka's borders, excluding AC and luxury services.

The scheme has enabled nearly 494 crore women to travel free of cost on state-run buses. On July 6, over 56 lakh women availed of the service, saving about ₹16.58 crore in fares. Monthly ridership remains strong, with over 21 crore women travelling in June alone. Among the four transport corporations, BMTC and KSRTC have recorded the highest usage.

Educational content on child-centric topics also in focus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Each child-friendly room has comfortable seating for women and children, a small play area with toys, educational cartoons, bookstands and newspapers for senior citizens and artwork by students from Chamarajendra Govt college of Visual Arts, Mysuru and Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

To support differently abled persons, stations are also being fitted with metal ramps for wheelchair access and improved waiting areas. These upgrades have already been implemented at Kamakshipalya, Magadi Road, and Vijayanagar police stations, depending on available space. The officials also mentioned that some of the improvements were made possible with the support of local MLAs, reflecting a team effort to create friendlier and safer police spaces.

This initiative not only improves the physical infrastructure but also aims to build trust between the police and the public, especially among those who feel most vulnerable.

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I, Bhoomika D/o Santosh Ganapati R/o #331,8th cross, Avalahalli Extn, B'lore-560085 have changed my name to Bhoomika Santosh Avadhani.

I, HITHESHREE K MURTHY D/o K.M. Krishnamurthy, residing at Kuppali Village & Post, Kasaba Hobli, Hassana Taluk, Hassan District, have Changed my daughter name YASHMITHA K. (New Name) vide affidavit Dated 15-4-2025 sworn before notary P.Nanjappa at Hassan.

I Lohith A S/O, Anjanappa.n R/o No 90 9 Cross 9 Main , Old Thippaaandra Hal Ii Stage Bangalore 560008 have changed my name to A.lohit Kumar.

I ZAHEER BAIG HAYATH BAIG S/o HAYATH BAIG, R/o. 14, 7th Main, 4th Cross, Near Rhiza Academy, A R Nagar, MS Palya, Bangalore-560097 have changed my name to ZAHEER BAIG for all purposes

I, Patrick Denzil D'Cunha Son of Ignatius Richard D'Cunha R/O Flat 7081, Prestige Royale Gardens,Avalahalli,Doda - ballapur Main Road, Bangalore 560064, have changed my name to Denzil D'Cunha.

I, Rukhsar Haroon Shaikh, residing at G-1, Koolz Golden Hill, 2nd Main Road, B.M. Krishnappa Layout, Shampura, Kavalbyrasandra, Bangalore – 560032, declare that Shaikh Ruksarsana Haroon and Rukhsar Haroon Shaikh refer to the same person — myself. This is for all official and legal purposes.

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Altered number plate & 27 cases

The Kamakshipalya traffic police nabbed a 46-year-old food delivery agent, Lakshminarayan, near Magadi Road–Tunganagar on Tuesday afternoon for using an altered number plate to evade penalties on multiple traffic violations. The rider had 127 pending cases across two vehicle numbers, involving a total fine of ₹65,500.

As per officials, both the number plates were of the vehicles the family owned. 100 violations were linked to one number plate with a fine amount of ₹53,000, and 24 cases to the altered plate amounting to ₹12,000.

The Traffic police acted based on public informants under the Public Informants Act. The offences included riding without a helmet, triple riding, parking on zebra crossings, and jumping signals. According to officials, both the rider and his family had used the vehicles, contributing to the high number of violations.

A notice was served and the officials confirmed that the rider was made to pay the full amount and stressed that they remain vigilant against such attempts to bypass the law. **BMB**

NIA arrests 3 in K'taka in 2023 LeT prison radicalisation case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested three people, including a prison psychiatrist and a City Armed Reserve (CAR) police officer, after carrying out searches in Bengaluru and Kolar districts. The arrests are linked to a 2023 case involving the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group's prison radicalisation plot.

Those arrested include Dr. Nagaraj, a psychiatrist at Bengaluru's Central Prison; ASI Chan Pasha, a CAR police officer; and Anees Fathima, mother of absconding accused Junaid Ahmed. During the searches, NIA seized digital devices, cash, gold, and other incriminating materials.

The case is connected to the seizure of arms, explosives, and walkie-talkies from repeat offenders who were planning terror attacks in Bengaluru to support LeT's agenda.

According to the press release, Dr. Nagaraj smuggled mobile phones to inmates, including terror convict Tadiyandaveed Naseer, with help from an associate named Pavithra.

Anees Fathima allegedly passed instructions from Naseer to her absconding son to raise funds for the terror network. **BMB**

Board moots 33 as passing marks

The students of government, aided, and private schools following the state curriculum in Karnataka may soon have to take the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams in a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)-style format. The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has proposed this change to the government.

In this model, a student needs a minimum of 33% overall marks, including internal assessments, to pass. Each subject will carry 100 marks—80 for the written exam and 20 for internal assessment.

As part of the reform, the first language paper, which currently carries 125 marks, will be reduced to 100 marks from the March/April 2026 SSLC exams, aligning it with the other subjects. The total exam score will henceforth be 600 instead of 625.

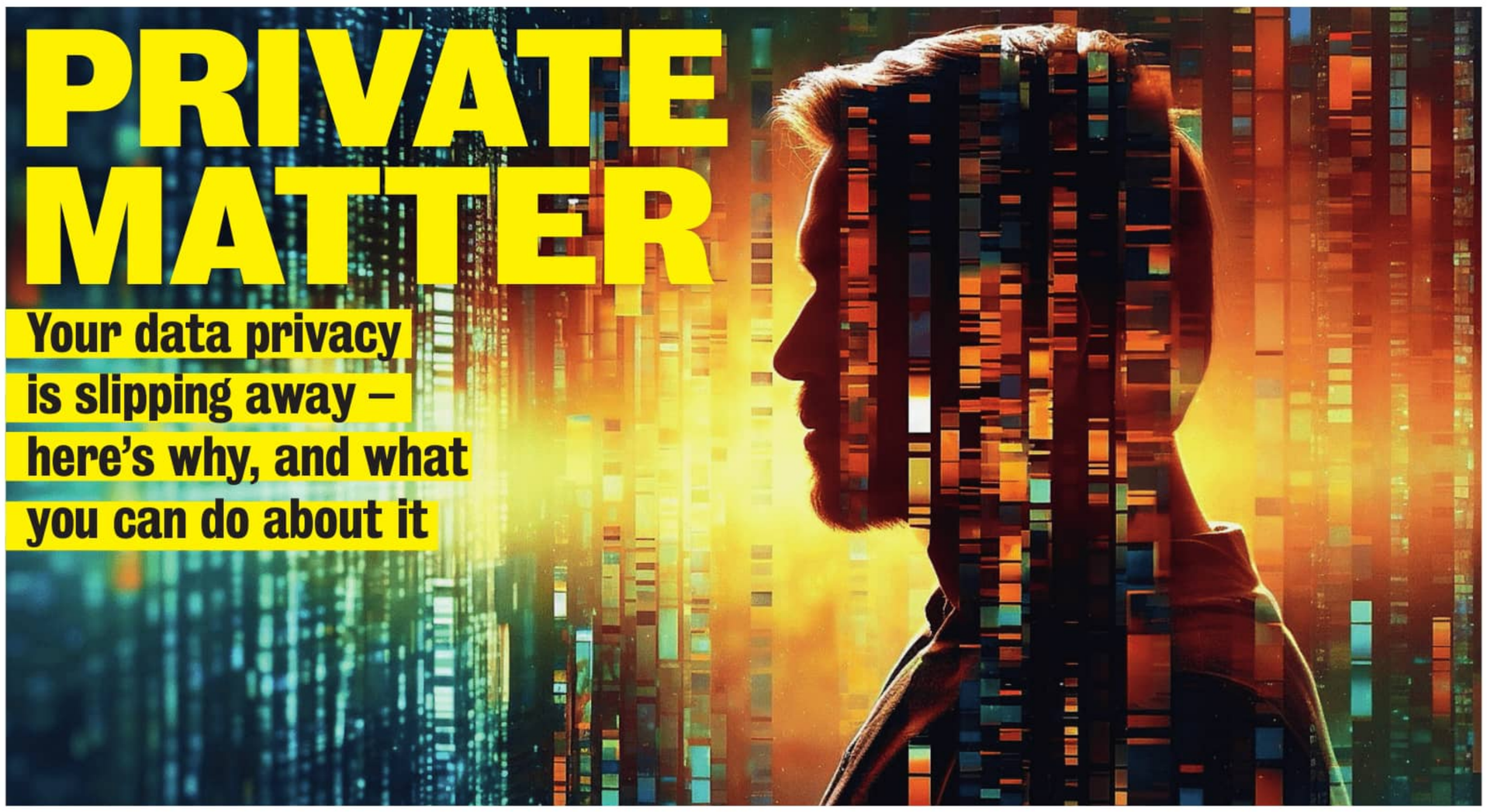
The upcoming SSLC exams will also feature more multiple-choice questions and optional questions in each section to allow students more flexibility. **BMB**

HEALTH TIP: Honey has natural healing properties that may reduce irritation in your food pipe caused by acid reflux

Black coffee is said to reduce the risk of liver diseases, including fatty liver and cirrhosis

PRIVATE MATTER

Your data privacy is slipping away – here's why, and what you can do about it



Cybersecurity and data privacy are constantly in the news. Governments are passing new cybersecurity laws. Companies are investing in cybersecurity controls such as firewalls, encryption and awareness training at record levels.

And yet, people are losing ground on data privacy.

In 2024, the Identity Theft Resource Center reported that companies sent out 1.3 billion notifications to the victims of data breaches. That's more than triple the notices sent out the year before. It's clear that despite growing efforts, personal data breaches are not only continuing, but accelerating.

What can you do about this situation? Many people think of the cybersecurity issue as a technical problem. They're right: Technical controls are an important part of protecting personal information, but they are not enough.

As a professor of information technology, analytics and operations at the University of Notre Dame, I study ways to protect personal privacy.

Solid personal privacy protection is made up of three pillars: accessible technical controls, public awareness of the need for privacy, and public policies that prioritize personal privacy. Each plays a crucial role in protecting personal privacy. A weakness in any one puts the entire system at risk.

The first line of defense

Technology is the first line of defense, guarding access to computers that store data and encrypting information as it travels between computers to keep intruders from gaining access. But even the best security tools can fail when misused, misconfigured or ignored.

Two technical controls are especially important: encryption and multifactor authentication. These are the backbone of digital privacy – and they work best when widely adopted and properly implemented.

Encryption uses complex math to put sensitive data in an unreadable format that can only be unlocked with the right key. For example, your web browser uses HTTPS encryption to protect your information when you visit a secure webpage. This prevents anyone on your network – or any network between you and the website – from eavesdropping on your communications. Today, nearly all web traffic is encrypted in this way.

But if we're so good at encrypting data on networks, why are we still suffering all of these data breaches? The reality is that encrypting data in transit is only part of the challenge.

Securing stored data

We also need to protect data wherever it's stored – on phones, laptops and the servers that make up cloud storage. Unfortunately, this is where security often falls short. Encrypting stored data, or data at rest, isn't as widespread as encrypting data that is moving from one place to another.

While modern smartphones typically encrypt files by default, the same can't be said for cloud storage or company databases. Only 10% of organisations report that at least 80% of the information they have stored in the cloud is encrypted, according to a 2024 industry survey. This leaves a huge amount of unencrypted personal information potentially exposed if attackers manage to break in. Without encryption, breaking into a database is like opening an unlocked filing cabinet – everything inside is accessible to the attacker.

Multifactor authentication is a security measure that requires you to provide more than one form of verification before accessing sensitive information. This type of authentication is more difficult to crack than a password alone because it requires a combination of different types of information. It often combines something you know, such as a password, with something you have, such as a smartphone app that can generate a verification code or with something that's part of what you are, like a fingerprint. Proper use of multifactor authentication reduces the risk of compromise by 99.22%.

While 83% of organisations require that their employees use multifactor authentication, according to another industry survey, this still leaves millions of accounts protected by nothing more than a password. As attackers grow more sophisticated and credential theft remains rampant, closing that 17% gap isn't just a best practice – it's a necessity.

Multifactor authentication is one of the simplest, most effective steps organizations can take to prevent data breaches, but it remains underused. Expanding its adoption could dramatically reduce the number of successful attacks each year.

Awareness gives people the knowledge they need

Even the best technology falls short when people make mistakes. Human error played a role in 68% of 2024 data breaches, according to a Verizon report. Organisations can mitigate this risk through employee training, data minimisation – meaning collecting only the information necessary for a task, then deleting it when it's no longer needed – and strict access controls.

Policies, audits and incident response plans can help organisations prepare for a possible data breach so they can stem the damage, see who is responsible and learn from the experience. It's also important to guard against insider threats and physical intrusion using physical safeguards such as locking down server rooms.

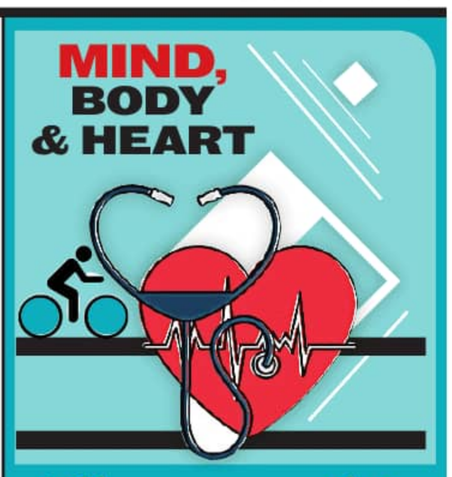
Public policy holds organisations accountable

Legal protections help hold organisations accountable in keeping data protected and giving people control over their data. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation is one of the most comprehensive privacy laws in the world. It mandates strong data protection practices and gives people the right to access, correct and delete their personal data. And the General Data Protection Regulation has teeth: In 2023, Meta was fined 1.2 billion (US$1.4 billion) when Facebook was found in violation.

Despite years of discussion, the U.S. still has no comprehensive federal privacy law. Several proposals have been introduced in Congress, but none have made it across the finish line. In its place, a mix of state regulations and industry-specific rules – such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act for health data and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act for financial institutions – fill the gaps.

The tools, policies and knowledge to protect personal data exist – but people's and institutions' use of them still falls short. Stronger encryption, more widespread use of multifactor authentication, better training and clearer legal standards could prevent many breaches. It's clear that these tools work. What's needed now is the collective will – and a unified federal mandate – to put those protections in place.

(Mike Chapple, University of Notre Dame, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Lymphatic drainage

What is it?
The idea behind it is simple really—your lymphatic system is like your body's unsung janitor. It clears out toxins, excess fluids, and waste and helps you look toned. But here's the catch, unlike blood, lymph doesn't pump on its own. It relies on movement, breath, and pressure.

Range of issues
"The lymphatic system is a crucial part of our body's immune system that helps to remove toxins and waste. However, if it becomes congested or diseased, it can lead to a range of health issues. One way to help keep the lymphatic system healthy is through lymphatic drainage therapy," explains Dr Shoaib Padaria, Director, Vascular Sciences, Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre.

Health benefits
He further elaborates that lymphatic drainage therapy can be a valuable tool for supporting overall wellness. "By promoting detoxification, reducing inflammation, and improving circulation, this gentle massage technique can help to keep the lymphatic system healthy and functioning optimally, leading to improved health and vitality."

Process
Lymphatic massage involves sweeping strokes to help 'drain' excess fluid towards the body's lymph nodes. "One of the key benefits of lymphatic drainage therapy is its ability to promote detoxification. By stimulating lymphatic flow, the therapy can help the body eliminate waste and toxins more effectively, which can lead to improved overall health and well-being," says Dr Shoaib. While daily tools can support the lymph but professional massages can work on a deeper level. It can improve flow dramatically, and offer serious relief from water retention, or sluggish energy. **— Femina**

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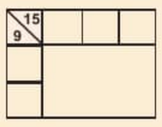
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

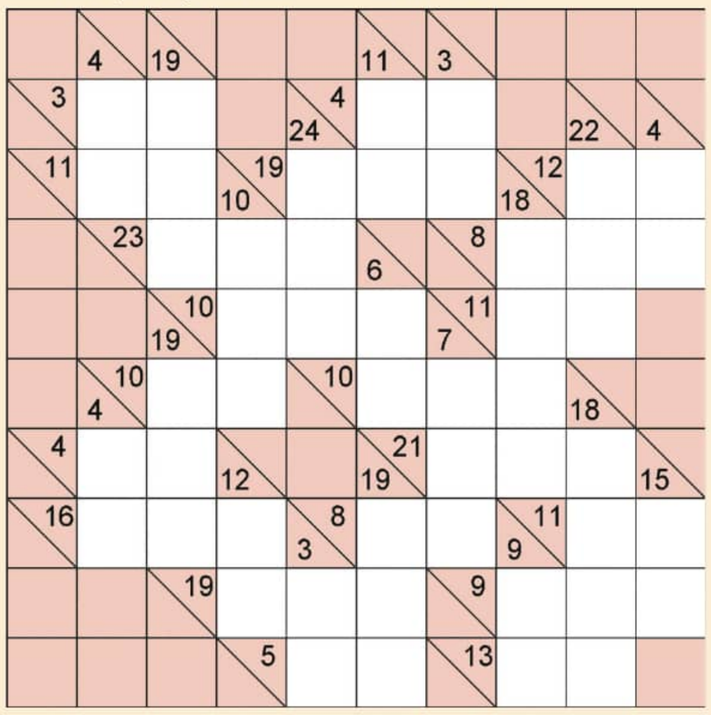
25^0.5 + 36^0.5 x 9^0.5 = ?

Kakuro

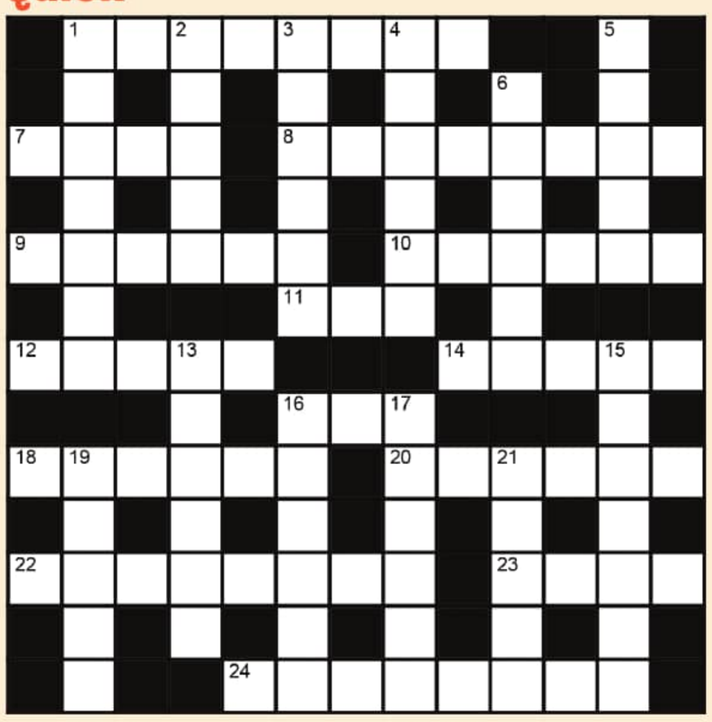
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Ghosts or phantoms (8)
7 Verruca (4)
8 Chapati made out of rice (4,4)
9 Carry too far (6)
10 Mender of pots and pans (6)
11 BJP and their allies? (3)
12 Nile dam site (5)
14 Romany wanderer? (5)
16 Crime syndicate (3)
18 Duty levied on goods entering a town ? (6)
20 Assigns or distributes (6)
22 Moving the eyelids up and down (8)
23 Thailand money (4)
24 Ex-Windies paceman Malcolm ____ (8)

DOWN

1 Deprives of food (7)
2 Diner or consumer? (5)
3 Play against, contend with (4,2)
4 Lists of mistakes (6)
5 Loose-limbed (5)
6 Delirium (6)
13 Method used to dry clothes? (6)
15 Small bag (7)
16 The least things (6)
17 Emblems or signs; indications (6)
19 Young horses (5)
21 Scales sign (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS S

DOJMOP JMH MHYVJF UHP, ZCQYZJQ YPL RCPFOLHVYJOCP YVH HFJHHUHL KVHYJHV JMYP FARRHFF.

Linemaro

There aren't enough o's in the word smooth to describe how smooth your skin is

Mindchow

Never apologise for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologise for truth

Joke of the day

I am not a competitive person...I'll be the first to admit it

Loop

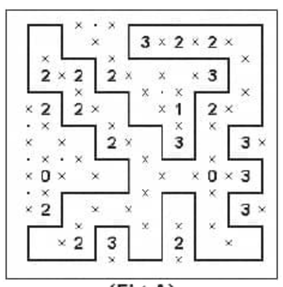
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

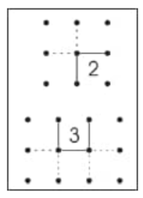
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

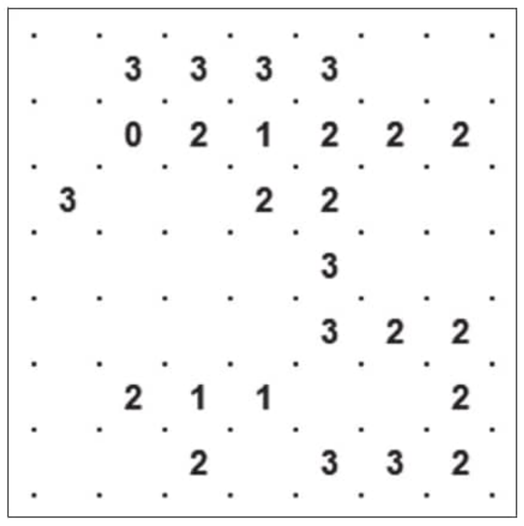
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



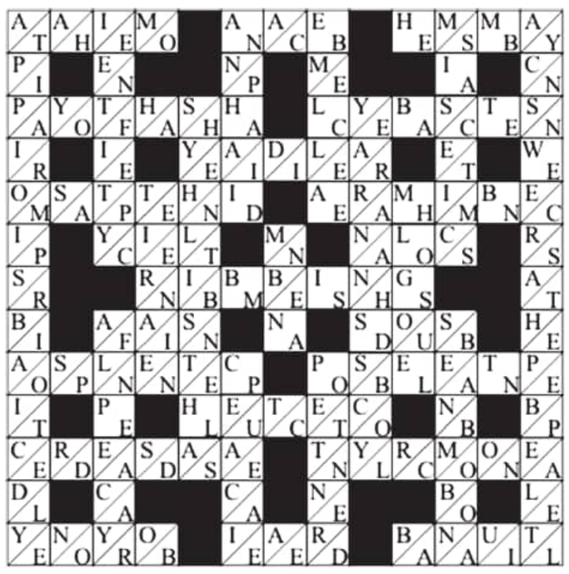
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4 M	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Am Aga; 6 No sib; 7 BT ran; 8 Antes; 9 Shy da

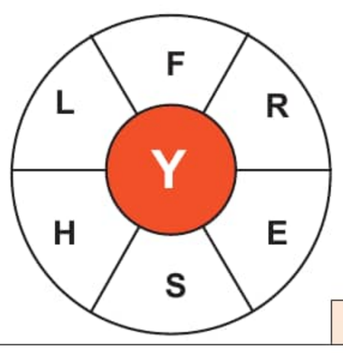
DOWN

1 Babes; 2 Right; 3 A Nasa; 4 Nomad; 5 Tansy

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			4		6			7
7		4				6		5
	3		9		8		2	
		5		4		3		
			5		1			
		3		2		1		
	9		1		5		8	
3		1				7		9
6			7		3			4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

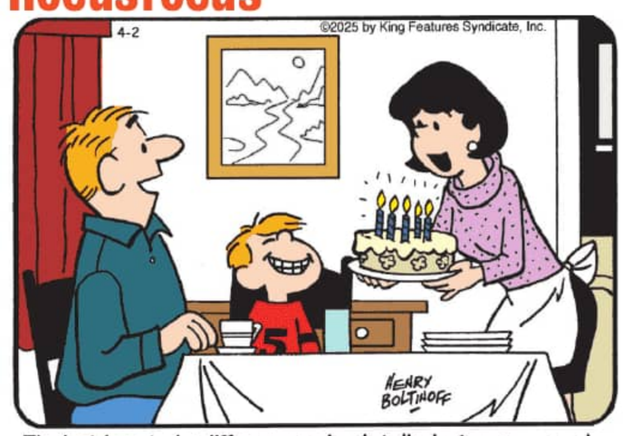
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
3 7 8 9

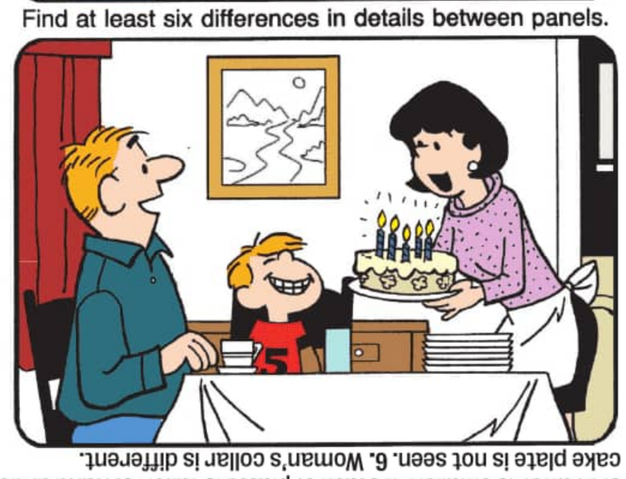
Medium = 19
2 3 6 8

Hard = 15
2 2 4 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



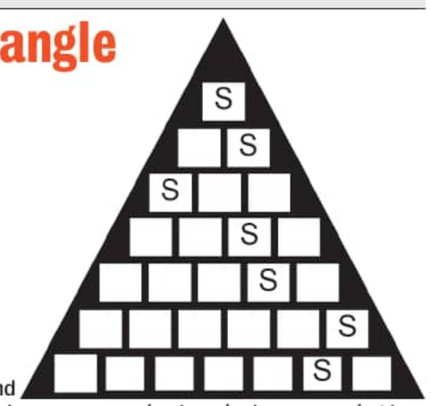
Differences: 1. Candle is shorter. 2. Stripe on sleeve is higher. 3. Drawer is smaller. 4. Stack of plates is taller. 5. Hand under cake plate is not seen. 6. Woman's collar is different.

Riddler

Add one letter to each word below–anywhere in the word–so that each numbered pair becomes two words of opposite meaning. For example, adding P and L to PLUM and SENDER would result in PLUMP and SLENDER. **1.** Bugler Exert **2.** Kid Man **3.** Stale Shay **4.** Raid Sow **5.** Flat Sin

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Less more
3 Be in session
4 Clenched hand
5 Initial
6 Coquettes
7 Flower seller



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

WHO IS THAT DISGUSTING CREATURE ?
SHE IS ME FAVORITE EMENY!
I AM THE LAST MAGICIAN AND WITCH!
A WITCH! HA! HA! HA! WE SCIENTISTS WIPED THEM OUT WITH THE BOW AND ARROW!
HA!!
HA!
HA!
AND I AM BACK JUST LIKE THE FRUIT FLIES AND GYPSY MOTHS!
10-11
popeye.com
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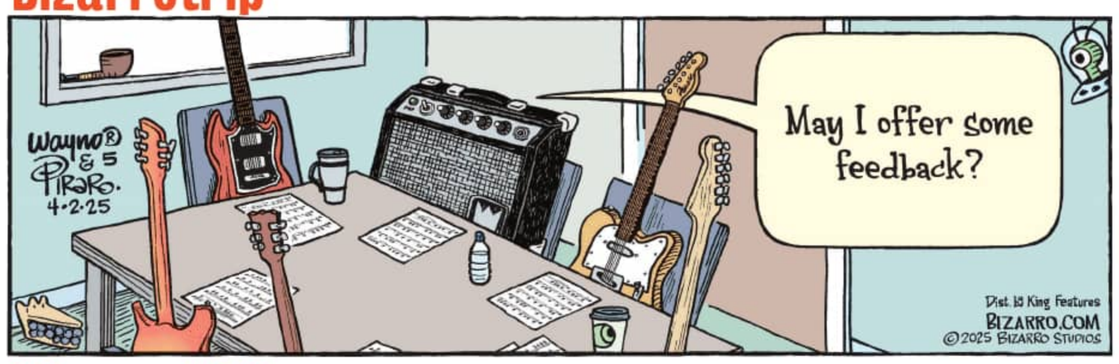
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

NOT THAT IT MATTERS, BUT I DO HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE GUYS.
HEY, DEAN!
THIS IS CHRIS, BRENT, AND JOHN.
'SUP, DUDE?
HI, I'M BRENT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 AUDREYS MCNEIL
©OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHAT ARE THESE BAGS OF SILVER IODIDE FOR?
IF WE HIT A DRY SPELL, I PLAN TO USE IT TO SEED THE CLOUDS TO MAKE IT RAIN.
DON'T YOU NEED A PLANE TO DO THAT?
NOT IF YOU'VE ORDERED A 'BEAN'S END' CLOUD-SEEDING DRONE!
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, past investments may yield positive returns, boosting your financial condition. You'll find success with minimal effort, and obstacles may begin to clear. New sources of income may emerge. Couples could receive joyful news related to children. Overall, it's a favourable day for progress and prosperity.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, a meeting with an influential person could open doors to growth in your business or career. Financial losses may begin to reverse, and your economic condition may stabilise. Singles might meet someone special, while couples may consider serious commitments regarding marriage.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, Jupiter's blessings bring stability. You may be considered for a higher position at work. A growing interest in spirituality or mythology could enrich your inner world. Confidence and clarity in thought will reflect in your actions. Planning an overseas journey is also a possibility.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A sense of unhappiness or lethargy may impact your productivity today. Project delays could cause frustration and affect your reputation at work or home. Avoid risky travel or rash decisions. Love relationships might face tension, and job seekers could face disappointment.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your work performance may shine. Strong bonding with your boss could result in new responsibilities or promotions. Chronic health issues might improve. Financial incentives are likely. Disputes with siblings may be resolved, and job seekers could find promising opportunities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Good health and recovery from old ailments are likely today. Positive news from close relatives may uplift your mood. You'll perform well at work, and co-workers may support you with challenging tasks. Your reputation may improve, and favourable outcomes are possible in legal matters.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your focus today may be on your children's education and career. Encouraging news is likely in that area. However, love relationships require patience. Avoid risky investments, as they could result in losses. Engage in meditation, yoga, or spiritual practices to regain balance.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Dissatisfaction may cloud your efforts today, and hard work might not bring immediate results. Be careful while reviewing documents—read everything before signing. Investment opportunities in fixed assets may arise, but follow your instincts before making commitments. Work stress could impact your personal life.

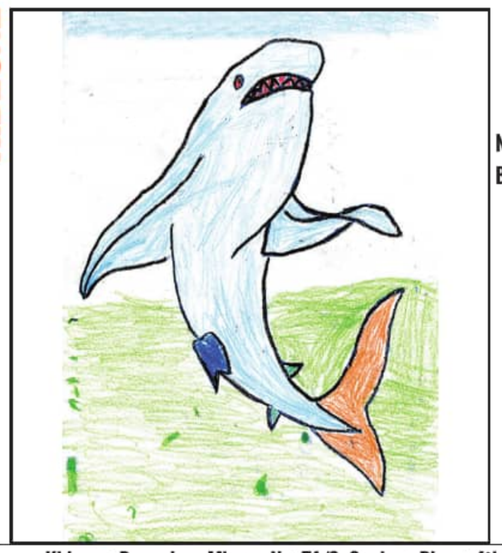
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may be engaged in social or family gatherings, helping to expand your network. A short work-related trip is possible. Disputes with siblings or friends may be resolved. With support from colleagues, you can tackle tough projects. Patience in conversations will help maintain harmony.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may implement new ideas in a family business today, which could bring future financial gains. Social or family events may occupy your time. You may purchase artistic or decorative items to upgrade your home, improving your social standing. Be mindful of health issues related to your teeth, eyes, skin, or ears.

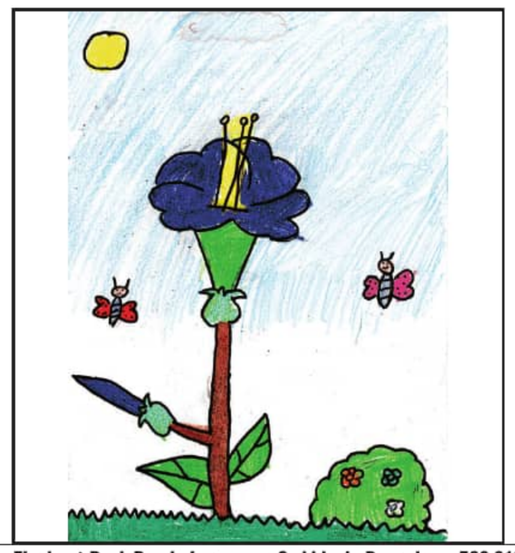
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
The Moon's blessings bring joy and productivity. You'll handle your responsibilities with ease and may take decisive actions that improve your future profits. A short business trip may be on the agenda. Support from coworkers will help you meet deadlines. Students will feel more focused. Watch your eating habits to prevent stomach discomfort.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel mentally and physically drained today. Sleeplessness could affect your health, and a family member's illness may add to your stress. Avoid unnecessary spending, as it may strain your finances. Stay cautious of people with hidden motives—maintain distance from gossip and rivalry.

KIDZONE



Nagarjun, Bengaluru



Charvia, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
25^1/2 + 36^1/2 x 9^1/2 =
√25 + √36 x √9 =
5 + 6 x 3 =
5 + 18 = 23

BULL'S EYE
fleshy, flyer, FRESHLY, lyre, rely, shyer, slyer

FAST FIVE

A	G	A	M	A
B	I	S	O	N
E	T	N	A	S
B	R	A	N	T
S	H	A	D	Y

RIDDLER
1. Bungler, Expert,
2. Kind, Mean,
3. Stable, Shaky,
4. Rapid, Slow &
5. Float, Sink

STRIKE OUT

A	H	E	M		A	C	E		E	M	M	A		
P		N		P		M		A		N				
P	O	T	A	S	H		C	E	A	S	E	S		
R		I		E	I	D	E	R		T		W		
O	S	T	E	N	D		E	R	M	I	N	E		
P		Y	E	T		M		A	O		C		R	
R			R	I	B	B	I	N	G			T		
I		F	I	N		A		D	U	B		H		
A	S	L	E	E	P		O	B	L	A	T	E		
T		E		L	E	C	T	O		B		B		
E	D	E	S	S	A		T	Y	R	O	N	E		
L		C			C		E		O		L			
Y	O	Y	O		E	A	R		A	N	I	L		

QUICK

				S		M	A	R	S	H	A	L		L
				T		G		M		E		R		E
B	L	I	N	K	I	N	G		B	A	H	T		
O		I		N		D		I		B		I		C
O	C	T	R	O	I		A	L	L	O	T	S		
		I			M	O	B					A		
A	S	W	A	N			G	Y	P	S	Y			
E		N		D	A			Z						
O	V	E	R	D	O		T	I	N	K	E	R		
R		E		E		A		E		H				
W	A	R	T		K	O	R	I	R	O	T	I		
T		A		A		R		F		I		L		
S	P	E	C	T	R	E	S							

MENSA PUZZLE
6. In each circle, add together the left and right hand digits, and add 3 to give the value of the lower digit.

QUOTE UNCODE
Within the hearts
men, loyalty and
consideration are
esteemed greater
than success.

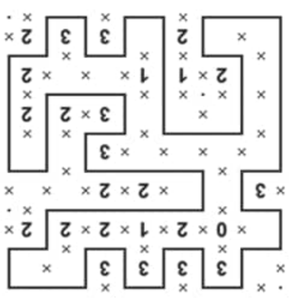
SUDOKU

2	1	9	4	5	6	8	3	7
7	8	4	3	1	2	6	9	5
5	3	6	9	7	8	4	2	1
1	6	5	8	4	9	3	7	2
8	7	2	5	3	1	9	4	6
9	4	3	6	2	7	1	5	8
4	9	7	1	6	5	2	8	3
3	5	1	2	8	4	7	6	9
6	2	8	7	9	3	5	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Is, Sit, Fist,
First, Flirts,
Florist.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 3 + 7 - 9 = 3
Medium
2 + 6 + 8 + 3 = 19
Hard
4 x 2 + 2 + 5 = 15

LOOP



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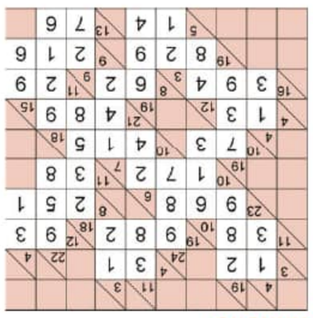

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Female-led action films— Actress and film producer Charlize Theron called out Hollywood studios for not wanting to take a "risk" when it comes to female-led action movies, according to The Hollywood Reporter

STEP BY STEP

Vijay Deverakonda has never shied away from speaking his mind. In a candid conversation with The Hollywood Reporter, the star opened up about the struggles of being an outsider in an industry. Drawing a clear line between his journey and that of star kids, Vijay offered rare insight into the unspoken rules that govern Bollywood and Tollywood, where access and influence can often outweigh talent.

Citing the example of a fellow actor who could easily reject weak scripts and request rewrites thanks to his father's clout, Vijay contrasted it with his own early career, where turning down a project or even asking for time to consider a script wasn't a luxury he could afford. The pressure to stay visible meant accepting roles without negotiation.

The actor's rise began with breakthrough films like Pelli Choopulu and Arjun Reddy, which quickly earned him a devoted fan following. Yet, despite his early success, his outsider status meant he had to navigate the industry with caution. He often felt compelled to accept whatever roles came his way, uncertain of when the next opportunity might knock.

Over the years, Deverakonda has grown more confident in asserting himself creatively. He now feels comfortable giving honest feedback to filmmakers, even if it means pointing out what doesn't work for him.

—ETimes

Not quite the first

Rashmika Mandanna faces backlash over 'first Kodava actress' remark

Popular multi-lingual actress Rashmika Mandanna, who had previously stirred controversy by claiming to be 'from Hyderabad', has once again landed in a dispute — this time with the Kodava community. In a recent interview with a private television channel, Rashmika stated, "I am the first actress from the Kodava community." The remark quickly went viral and drew widespread criticism on social media platforms.

Rashmika's statement has sparked sharp reactions among the Kodavas, with many questioning her knowledge of the community's history and contributions to cinema. Elders from the community have reportedly attempted to clarify the matter to the actress, emphasising the importance of acknowledging pioneers and showing respect to seniors in the field.

Pioneers in the field

Veteran actress Shashikala holds the distinction of being the first Kodava woman to enter cinema, having debuted in 1973. She was known for her roles in films such as Parameshiya Prema Prasanga, Manjina Thare, Shweta Gulabi, and Benki Dalli Aralida Hoovu. She also starred alongside Dr. Rajkumar. Shashikala won the Nandi Award for Best Debut Actress for the Telugu film Ashwini in 1990, which was based on the life of athlete Ashwini Nachappa.

Actress and TV star Nayana Kaverappa said, "One must be cautious while making public statements. Such remarks can invite unnecessary backlash. The Kodava community has a long-standing legacy in cinema."

—Sridhar Vivan

Some prominent actresses from the Kodava community

Prema, who debuted in 1994 and gained fame across Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam cinema with hits like Om, Nammura Mandara Hoove, Upendra, and Apthamitra.
Daisy Bopanna, who entered cinema in 2003 and acted in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Malayalam films.
Shwetha Chengappa, who started with the TV serial Arundhati in 2005 and became a known face.
Harshika Poonacha, who began her career in 2008 has won accolades including the Filmfare Award and Karnataka State Film Award for Best Supporting Actress.
Nidhi Subbaiah, who entered the industry in 2009 and is known for Anna Bond and Lifeu Ishtene.
Shubra Aiyappa and Varsha Bellamma.

The best thing

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas never fail to show us what true love looks like.

Whether they're sharing sweet photos or speaking fondly about each other, they keep proving why they're everyone's favourite couple. Recently, Nick Jonas opened up about being a

dad and didn't hold back while praising his wife. In fact, he went as far as calling Priyanka a 'saint' who's 'never done a single thing wrong'.

Speaking on 'The School of Greatness' with Lewis Howes, Nick was asked what three lessons he would leave for his daughter Malti Marie if it were his last day on earth. His answer was heartwarming.

Nick said, "You will never regret being kind, even when it seems impossible. Make sure the door is always open and the table gets bigger. You know, everyone is always welcome in our home, they have a place to stay and a place to eat. The door is always open. Your mother is a saint; she has never done a single thing wrong in her entire life. She's the best." With these words, Nick showed just how much family and kindness mean to him.

— ETimes

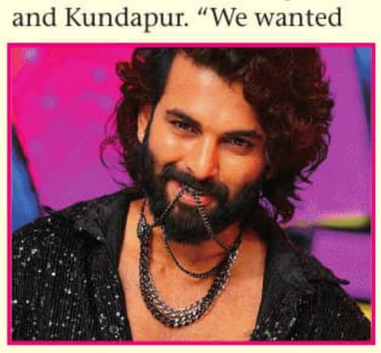
SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Time loop tale

A few directors have explored the concept of a time loop with their films. Now, debutant director Vijay Manjunath from Kundapur joins this list with Ananthakaalam. Around 40 percent of this movie's shooting is over and the remaining portion is expected to be completed in 12 days.

Prior to this, Manjunath made Daivam Sharanam Gachami, a short film. "I have not worked as an assistant or an associate director for Kannada movies but I had training in direction. Four years ago, I made a short film. Now, I am handling the megaphone for this movie that explores the time loop concept," said Manjunath.

The director said the movie was shot in Bengaluru and Kundapur. "We wanted to complete the shooting but heavy rain made us postpone it. The climax of the movie will be its highlight," the director said.



Recently, the teaser of the movie was unveiled and it has created curiosity among moviegoers. The teaser begins with a scene where the hero asks the vendor to give him a cigarette. While smoking the cigarette, the hero hears a strange voice asking him to buy a balloon. "The teaser showcases Prithviraj Shetty in a different avatar. Shetty, who is well known in Telugu films, makes debuts a hero in Sandalwood with this movie.

Song unveiled

The team of Nidradevi Next Door is excited about the success of the first song – Sleepless Anthem. The song, unveiled by actor-cum-director Duniya Vijay, got more than one million views online. Recently, the team unveiled the second song – Nee Nanna that was released by Golden Star Ganesh.

Jayaram Devasamudra has bankrolled Nidradevi Next Door under the Suram Movies banner. Praveer and Rishika are the lead pair.

Devasamudra said that he is an auditor by profession and Nidradevi Next Door is his third movie as a producer.

"The script of the movie is very good. I am very happy with the quality of the songs that have the potential to bring audiences to theaters to watch this movie. While agreeing to bankroll the movie, I advised the director to have melodious songs in the film."

Director Surag said he was very happy to realise his dream of directing a movie. "I thank the producer for providing all amenities during the shooting. Many people have appreciated me for selecting Praveer and Rishika as the lead pair," the director said. The movie features Shine Shetty, Sruthi Hariharan and others.